VACCINES FOR



Dallas County Health and Human Services

WINTER 2015 - NEWSLETTER

National Influenza Vaccination week

December 6-12, 2015

ational Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) is a national observance that was established to highlight the importance of continuing influenza vaccination.

Flu vaccination coverage estimates from past years have shown that influenza vaccination activity drops quickly after the end of November. CDC and its partners want to remind you that even though the holiday season has arrived, it is not too late to get your flu vaccine!!! As long as flu viruses are spreading and causing illness, vaccination can provide protection against the flu and should continue. Even if you haven't yet been vaccinated and have already gotten sick with one flu virus, you can still benefit from vaccination since the flu vaccine protects against three or four different flu viruses (depending on which flu vaccine you get). CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine for everyone 6 months of age and older as the first and most important step in protecting against influenza disease. Another goal of NIVW is to communicate the importance of flu vaccination for people who are at high risk for developing flu-related complications.

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People at high risk of serious flu complications include:

- · young children, pregnant women,
- people with certain chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes, heart disease or lung disease,
- and people aged 65 years and older.

For people at high risk, getting the flu can mean developing serious flu-related complications, like pneumonia, or a worsening of existing health conditions, which can lead to hospitalization or death.

Vaccination

The flu vaccine is the best tool available to protect against this potentially serious disease. Flu vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctors' visits, missed work due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations. Despite the unpredictable nature of the flu, you need the 2015-2016 flu vaccine for optimal protection against the flu this season.

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VACCINES FOR CHILDREN



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Yearly vaccination is needed because:

- Flu viruses are always changing, and the vaccine is updated each year to better match circulating influenza viruses, and
- Immune protection from vaccination declines over time so vaccination is recommended every season for the best protection against the flu.

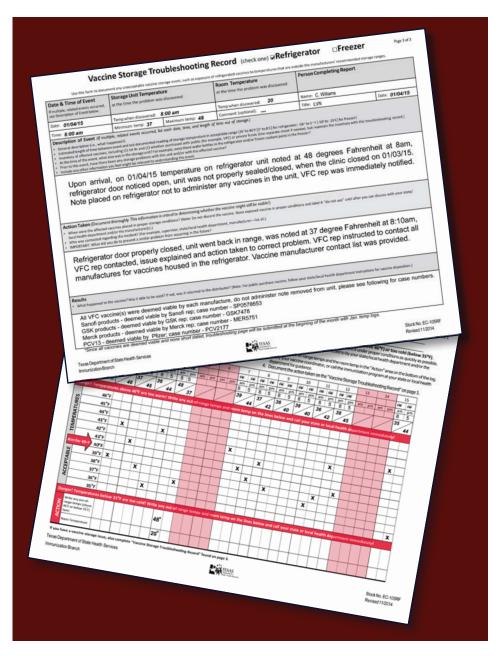
It takes about two weeks after vaccination for the immune system to build the antibodies your body needs in order to provide protection against the flu. In the United States, flu activity is usually highest between December and February and can last as late as May. As long as flu viruses are circulating, it's not too late to get vaccinated. With flu activity starting to increase and family and friends gathering for the holidays, now is a great time to get a flu vaccine to protect yourself and your loved ones. We hope that NIVW will serve as a reminder to parents and caregivers of children about the importance of flu vaccination in general and the fact that some children may need two doses of flu vaccine this season to be fully protected.

- Children 6 months through 8 years old who are getting vaccinated for the first time will need two doses of flu vaccine.
- Some children in this age group who have received influenza vaccine previously also will need two doses of vaccine this season to be fully protected.

There are many choices available for flu vaccine, both in terms of where to get vaccinated and what vaccine to get.

- Flu vaccines made to protect against three different flu viruses (called "trivalent" vaccines) are available this season. In addition, flu vaccines made to protect against four different flu viruses (called "quadrivalent" vaccines) also are available.
- Flu vaccines are offered in many locations, including doctor's offices, clinics, health departments, retail stores and pharmacies, and health centers, as well as by many employers and schools.

Millions of doses of influenza vaccine have been administered to people safely for decades. Once vaccinated, you can enjoy this holiday season knowing that you have taken the single best step to protect yourself and your loved ones against the flu.



Temperature Excursions: Isolate the vaccine and contact the manufacturer to determine viability.

VACCINES FOR CHILDREN



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Return Labels

A ll return labels for wasted/expired vaccines will be sent electronically unless specifically requested otherwise. Requests for labels should still be identified with "LABEL NEEDED". Providers will receive an e-mail with a link that will be active for 30 days that will allow them to print out the return label, after 30 days a new request will need to be submitted through the Regional office to Austin.

If a provider needs the label to be mailed to their office then you MUST document "MAIL LABEL" on the VLR, for providers that have different shipping addresses from their mailing address you will also need to include the mailing address on the VLR.

Update your EVI account with a primary and secondary email address that is valid and correct.

Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) are conditions which are preventable through vaccines available to protect against these diseases. Vaccines are counted among the greatest public health achievements of the twentieth century. Countless lives have been saved and many diseases have been prevented because of vaccines. Today, vaccine preventable disease levels are at record lows. Even though most infants and toddlers have received all recommended vaccines by age 2, many under-immunized children remain, leaving the potential for outbreaks of disease. Many adolescents and adults are under-immunized as well, missing opportunities to protect themselves against diseases such as Hepatitis B, influenza, and pneumococcal disease. Be wise, immunize and protect yourself and your loved ones.













VACCINES FOR

Safe families, healthy lives. **Dallas County Health and Human Services**

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All providers are required to update their

2016.

clinic information, including changes in provider's vaccine usage volume, clinic contact information, and other changes that may have occurred since the previous year. Re-enrolling in the program confirms your clinic's agreement to abide by all terms and conditions of the TVFC Program. The TVFC Program also requires the vaccine coordinator and back-up vaccine coordinator at each facility to annually complete the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) web-based training courses, You Call the Shots Module 10: Vaccine Storage and Handling and You Call the Shots Module 16: Vaccines for Children Program. A copy of the signed Provider Agreement and certificate of attendance for the required 2016 CDC You Call the Shots Modules must be sent to the provider's responsible entity (Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Health Service Region (HSR) or Local Health Department (LHD) no later than, March 1, 2016.



VIS Updates

Influenza Live, Intranasal	08/07/15
Influenza-Inactivated	08/07/15
Serogroup B Meningococcal MenB	08/14/15
Pneumococcal Conjugate PVC13	11/05/15
Pediatric Multi-Vaccine	11/05/15

VACCINES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM

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Parts or full contents used within this newsletter were extracted from the publications of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Texas Department of State Health Services website









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